Population ecology of the rusty parrotfish Scarus ferrugineus, a dominant grazer on a seasonal coral reef

Afeworki, Yohannes

Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift

Population ecology of the rusty parrotfish *Scarus ferrugineus*, a dominant grazer on a seasonal coral reef

van

Yohannes Afeworki

1. Marine ecological research in the southern Red Sea, has greatly advanced in the last 15 years primarily due to the research cooperation between the University of Asmara and the University of Groningen. – *Author*

2. Large individuals of the rusty parrotfish are more vulnerable to extremely high temperatures. If global temperatures rise, shifts in size structure will be inevitable, reducing their functional role on coral reefs. – *This dissertation*

3. The extensive coral reef habitats in the southern Red Sea are highly seasonal and among the hottest in the world. These characteristics make this area a natural laboratory where effects of rising temperatures on coral reefs can be investigated. – *Ateweberhan 2004, this dissertation*

4. Sex change in sequential hermaphrodites is highly flexible. When social and demographic conditions are not suitable a female may forgo sex change and remain female for life. – *Munday et al. 2006, this dissertation*

5. Terminal phase males of the rusty parrotfish have a life history that seems to follow the motto "Live fast, die young, and leave a beautiful corpse". – *This dissertation*

6. There are two alternative male mating strategies in the rusty parrotfish. Large males are territorial and pair-spawn with females. Small terminal phase males and initial phase males are none-territorial and either parasitize pair-spawnings or spawn in groups. – *This dissertation*

7. Roving herbivores partition the habitat according to feeding preferences and anti-predator adaptations. – *This dissertation*

8. "Measure what is measurable, and make measurable what is not so." – *Gallileo Galili*

9. With maximum temperatures exceeding 40°C and a relative humidity of over 60%, Massawa in summer is like an open air sauna. – *Author*

10. Research on coral reef macroaglae, especially about their recruitment dynamics is lagging behind. This is a glaring oversight considering that they are often blamed as agents of coral reef decline. – *Author*